

Quarterly Issues and Programming Report

January 2011 thru March 2011

WTNH/News8

1. Community Issues
2. Health
3. Education
4. Crime
5. Consumer Issues
6. Government, economy, and law

Community Issues:

January:

01/03/11: News 8 at 12pm - :40

"Meriden Baby Memorial"

People in Meriden got together this morning... to remember a newborn baby who died 23 years ago when he was abandoned in the freezing cold. The infants' parents have never been found. Police continue to investigate. This is the most frustrating case, we've had many leads, we've had many man hours on this case, we've had many lab tests on this case, we've had yet to come up with the mother who abandoned the baby. Local clergy members named the baby David Paul and people in the community donated money for his burial.

01/14/11: News 8 at 5pm – 1:45

"Walter Camp Rally"

Dream big.. work hard.. stay in school. That's the message today for New Haven high schoolers - from Martin Parker, an NFL prospect who grew up in the city.. from Stephanie Redding -- the highest-ranking woman ever in the New Haven Police Department and from John Tartaglia -- a former Connecticut high school athlete who lost both legs to a rare infection. John Tartaglia/Milford: "There's nothing you can't accomplish with a great attitude.. and obviously just how important it is - especially today - to stay in school.. to continue with your education." This event -- emceed by my colleague, NEWS-8's Ann Nyberg -- is the kick-off to the 44th Annual Walter Camp Weekend in New Haven -- celebrating college football's best players.. and aiming to inspire the next generation. Sam Burrell/Walter Camp Foundation: "...and we just hope that they will think about staying in school and going on to college and furthering their education and becoming a successful person in our community." There's no doubt kids here today are hearing this message. But there's also no doubt they've heard this year's Walter Camp Player of the Year Cam Newton announced he's leaving school early to enter the NFL Draft. Newton - a junior at Auburn University - just led his team to the National Championship. John Moffitt - an Offensive lineman from Wisconsin and Connecticut's college player - says Newton is the exception to the rule. John Moffitt/CT Player of the Year: "Cam Newton is Cam Newton.. and for him ending college -- that's the best decision. But I'm sure, the type of character he is, he will finish college eventually." Moffitt says the reality is education equals opportunity. For Moffitt.. that next opportunity will be in the NFL. For these city school kids.. the sky's the limit -- provided they dream big, work hard and stay in school. In New Haven, Chris Velardi, News 8.

01/17/11: Good Morning CT 6am - :35

"Icy Plunge Danger"

It was cold this weekend but that didn't stop a brave group from jumping into the frigid waters of the Long Island Sound. It was West Haven's 10th Annual ICY Plunge for a Cure. They took a dip in the cold water to help raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Firefighters were on hand to make sure everyone who took part was safe. Last year the event pulled in more than 60 thousand dollars in donations and sponsorship pledges. The money goes to Yale's Smilow Cancer and the Hospital of Saint Raphael.

February:

02/04/11: Good Morning Ct at 5am - :40

"New Haven Police Chief No Confidence Vote"

The police union has voted overwhelmingly that they have no confidence in New Haven Chief Frank Limon, or his two assistant chiefs. According to the New Haven Independent... they voted 246 to 21 that they are unhappy with the job the so-called "Chicago Three" are doing. The chief issued a statement saying "While I'm disappointed in the vote, I will continue with our mission. The people of New Haven have the right to expect their police department to improve public safety in their city and strengthen community trust while being a professional organization. I have not lost confidence in my Officers or in our ability to work together to achieve these goals. I will not be distracted from the job I was hired to do."

02/17/11: News 8 at 5pm - 1:45

"D&D Charity"

Nutritious food for children .. There's a unique effort underway in Uncasville today. It's all about getting good food into the hands of kids, who might otherwise go without. News 8's Tina Detelj is on the scene in Uncasville, to explain what's going on - The competition is fierce here on the floor of the Mohegan Sun Arena. These folks are all scrambling around so I don't want to disturb them but we'll get someone to tell us what they're all doing here. 260 Dunkin Donuts corporate employees lining up to fill a need by filling nearly seven thousand bags with nutritious food for kids who might otherwise go hungry on weekends. In every back pack we put in two whole grain cereal products. The CT Food Bank's Kids Backpack Program provides the meals to 17-hundred students statewide. They are discretely slipped into their backpacks each Friday. Janet Kniffin of the Ct Food Bank, "We hear all the time from teachers about how different it is Monday mornings now when the kids come back to school and they've had something to eat during the weekend." The food these workers are packing up will provide a month's worth of weekend meals. After all this food here gets packed in those bags and they get put in the boxes. Those boxes are then brought over to these pallets. There are five different teams competing here and the first one to finish gets the golden backpack. You can hear people are pretty excited and so is the announcer.

02/24/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - 2:30

"The Grove"

To get into the Grove there's an application process. How much you pay depends on how much time you plan to spend there each month. It's a weekday morning and the Grove in New Haven is buzzing. Jeff Kubarych has set himself up at a desk along the wall. "When I first came here, I wasn't expecting to find the community that I did." Jeff -- a self-employed marketing consultant - was just looking to get out of his home office. "I always say, you're only as smart as the people around you and when you're by yourself, there's not a lot of learning that can happen." But here.. Jeff says he's learning by collaborating. The Grove's co-founder Ken Janke says that's the idea. To him, this isn't so much a place for people to 'work' -- it's a place for them to grow. Afterall, he says you can set up your laptop in a coffee shop - but you'll be working alone. "But when you walk in the door here at the Grove, people know you. They know you by name, they know what you're working on and they're there to support you." The support is by design -- it happens casually.. and during planned workshops like the one we dropped in on. "What is your shared objective, and is everybody on the same page with that." "In many ways, what's going on here is about technology, the people here bring their laptops, they've got their smartphones - they are very much plugged in. but what's happening here is also about meeting face-to-face and the collaboration that can come with that." Giulia Gouge/SheSoSocial.com: "The technology that we share and that's shared gives us the freedom to go off and work on our projects and then come back and say, okay, here's what I came up with." Giulia Gouge talks about a 'creative energy' here -- unlike anything she's experienced. Important these days given the economy. Jeff Kubarych/Marketing Consultant: "A lot of people are deciding, I'm gonna do my own thing, I'm not

gonna wait around for permission or I'm not gonna wait around to get hired.. I'm gonna do my own thing." And having a supportive place to get started.. makes taking that leap, a little easier.

March:

03/01/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - :40

"Bridgeport Halfway House Denied"

Bridgeport's planning and zoning committee has voted to reject plans to build a half way house in Went Field Park. A non-profit wanted to build the facility in an abandoned factory at the corner of Norman and Railroad Avenues. We're told two factors lead to the decision -- the application for extension was filed 10 days late and the community was able to document "material change" in the neighborhood. Protestors gathered last week to protest -- chanting 'half-way.. no way'. They say the neighborhood has gotten safer since a little league started playing there.. Bassick High School started using the park for after-school sports.

03/10/11: News 8 at 11pm - :35

"Fire Victims Fundraiser"

The community has come together to organize fundraisers for the victims of that devastating fire in New Haven. They're going on tomorrow from 8:30 AM to 2 PM and Saturday from 9 AM to 12 PM at the church at 342 Ellsworth Avenue in New Haven. People are asked to drop off food, clothes and any other items that might help the family.

03/15/11: Good Morning CT at 6am - :57

"Al Sharpton in New Haven"

Civil rights leader and political activist Reverend Al Sharpton is urging Mayor John DeStefano to sit down and talk to city unions. He led local workers in a rally to city hall yesterday afternoon. Sharpton is fighting what he calls, the coordinated attack on public employees and the services they provide. One month ago Mayor John DeStefano laid off dozens of city workers including sixteen police officers to cut costs. Sharpton "The mayor should stay at the table and try to work out some resolve that would not overpenalize workers. Clearly everyone needs to make sacrifices but not just one side, and clearly not the side that didn't cause economic meltdown. Yes, there is a deficit, but why are the union members and the workers the only ones asked to sacrifice?" Mayor Destefano issued a statement in response, saying quote "Any suggestion the City is refusing to negotiate with unions is categorically untrue. The City has been at the table for literally dozens of meetings and negotiations with our bargaining units."

Health:

January:

01/03/11: News 8 at 5pm -- 1:41

"Blood Test for Cancer:

Alot of excitement over this cancer blood test. Researchers say -- it could have a big impact in the way cancer is treated -- especially for breast, colon, prostate and lung cancer. Studies show -- the new blood test can pinpoint one cancer cell among a billion or more healthy cells. The cancer test was developed by researchers at Massachusetts General in Boston. They used a microchip -- to identify cancer cells -- in spiked blood samples. Lung cancer specialist -- Dr. Tom Lynch was part of an earlier study. "I had been involved with some of the initial work that was done at Mass General when I was in Boston, approximately 2 -3 years ago, we made some of the first findings that you could actually detect circulating cancer cells in patients with lung cancer." Now -- Physician in Chief of Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven -- Dr. Lynch says the breakthrough technology is significant in the treatment of cancer. "the impact on treatment is that its very different for doctors to always know when a treatment is working and that's true when you

are treating with standard therapy but its particularly true when you are treating new treatments and this technology might allow doctors to know much sooner that a given treatment is working." The impact in screening for cancer is still challenging. "not every patient with early stage cancer will have circulating tumor cells so I think its something that's not going to replace mammograms or replace CAT scans but will be used to in addition to CAT scans." Health care giant -- Johnson and Johnson -- is teaming up with the research team to bring the test to market. Meantime -- 4 major cancer sites will start using the test this year -- two in Boston, one in Texas and one in New York. On the scene in New Haven, Jocelyn Maminta News 8.

01/06/11: Good Morning CT 6am - :30

"Walking Study"

We all know walking is good for us, but how fast we walk may make a difference. A new study in the journal of the American medical association shows that if you walk faster...you can live longer...and this is especially true for older folks. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh looked at more than 34-thousand people. They found the *slower* someone walks may show the body is already damaged. It may mean older people who walk faster are more fit to begin with.

01/17/11: News 8 at 12pm - :20

"Video Games and Depression"

Here's a 21st century concern... Can playing too many video games have an impact on your child's mental health? A new study seems to indicate that it can. It seems all that time in front of the screen can lead to depression, anxiety and poor grades. Researchers say kids considered to be "pathological" gamers showed higher levels of depression and other mental health issues, than children who didn't play as much.

01/26/11: Good Morning CT 6am - :30

"Diabetes Reversing"

Health news this morning, according to the Centers for Disease Control if Americans keep living a sedentary lifestyle a third of us will be diabetic by the year 20-50. But there is some good news ... some cases of diabetes are preventable... even reversible. Diet and exercise ARE ways to take control of your health. Dropping weight... and changing your lifestyle can help avoid the complications of diabetes. But, Doctors say its not always possible to completely get rid of diabetes... but healthy lifestyle habits may help.

February:

02/01/11: Good Morning CT 6am -- 1:50

"Dietary Guidelines"

The new dietary guidelines are in-- taking a more aggressive stance on things like -- less salt and less sugar. It's the latest move in the ongoing battle against obesity. The USDA and Health & Human Services -- issuing the 2010 Dietary Guidelines. "I think in general its restrictive enough. It's just educating the public in helping them to understand what these guidelines really mean." Dorothy DeCaprio is a registered dietitian at the Hospital of St. Raphael. The new recommendations -- pushing 'less' salt, solid fats and sugar -- 'more' fish and whole grains. "Basically, when they say less salt, what are we talking about? less salt, the new guidelines recommends 2300 mg per day which- just to give a guideline- there's 2300 mg in 1 tsp of salt." "even at the salad bar- there are things to avoid. You need to skip something like this. It looks like it has alot of peperoni and cheese-choose your darker green vegetable, go with your low protein sources like your beans and some grilled chicken and broccoli." While critics say the new version does not go far enough -- people we spoke with say -- it's needed. "I think it is helpful and I'd like to see it on the menus. I know you can get it if you ask." "People that are preparing the foods and things, the processers, they need to back off on the amount of sodium and things they are putting in, in the foods." And key to maintaining a healthy weight -- portion control and

exercise. "Experts say if you have to have processed food -- keep it at a minimum-- read the label-- check serving size and sodium content.

02/04/11: News 8 at 5pm - :25

"ADHD Alternative Treatment"

Attention deficit and hyper-activity disorder -- known as A-D-H-D-- is a common diagnosis among children. We still do not know the cause -- but a new study suggests that in some cases -- it may be triggered by certain foods. So some children may respond to what's called a "restricted elimination diet." That means -- removing foods one-by-one from a patient's diet -- until what's causing symptoms is discovered. Of the fifty children in the study.. placed on five weeks of a restricted diet... thirty-two of them showed improvement.

02/14/11: News at 12pm - :20

"No Kids Zyrtec"

If you're looking for *chewable* children's Zyrtec you won't see it on store shelves until next year. According to parenting.com the medicine won't be available because the company is changing where it's made. The medicine is not being recalled. Zyrtec liquid gels and tablets are still available and are safe for children ages six and older.

02/20/11: Good Morning CT Weekend - :35

"Girl Scout Cookies and Calories"

Its Girl Scout cookie season but before you sit down and eat the whole box, here's something you might want to think about. Thin Mints actually have the lowest amount of calories with about 40 each. So, if you eat four cookies you'd need to spend about a half an hour on a bike to burn them off. Samoas are about 70 calories each. So, it would take a half an hour of leisurely walking to burn off one cookie. If you're a peanut butter fan those Tagalongs pack 70 calories a piece. Two cookies would cost you a half hour of water aerobics.

March:

03/01/11: News 8 at 12pm - :25

"CT Cord Blood Bank"

Some state lawmakers are looking for support to create a public 'umbilical cord blood bank' right here in Connecticut. Right now if parents in Connecticut want to store their child's umbilical cord blood they have to pay private banks. A public bank would be 'free-of-charge'. In 2009, the General Assembly required health care providers to tell pregnant women about the option to either 'bank or donate' their newborn's umbilical cord blood.

03/02/11: News 8 at 5pm - :40

"ECOLI Shopping Carts"

Here's something to think about the next time you go to the grocery store and grab one of those carts. A new study shows most shopping cart handles are covered in fecal matter and E-coli. Researchers at the University of Arizona say that's not the only place germs like to hang out. Scientists found that flu viruses can live up to three days on a dollar bill.

03/15/11: Good Morning CT at 6am - :30

"Coffee Stroke"

We know you probably don't need another reason to grab a cup of coffee this morning. The extra jolt it gives you is probably reason enough to pour the joe but it may have another benefit. Ladies... this is especially for you. Researchers have found women who drink more than a cup of coffee a day have a 22- to 25-percent lower risk of stroke than people who drank less coffee. Swedish researchers followed women for an average of 10 years. The findings add to the growing research showing coffee may have hidden health perks.

Education:

January:

01/03/11: Good Morning Ct 6am - :21

"Middletown Resource Officers:

It's time to go back to school today in Middletown for students and police. One of the schools two Resource officers will be back in the halls of Middletown High School today. They were pulled early in September after a student was tazed in the cafeteria. The officers will not return to the city's middle schools until officials see if the program is successful at the high school.

01/11/11: Good Morning CT 6am - :35

"South Windsor School Threat"

South Windsor police have arrested a high school student... accused of making a deadly threat... after the *father* of another student tipped them off. Police say a student got a text message about the threat.... and immediately told her dad... who called it in. They also say there was a posting on a social networking site... that a student was planning to bring a gun to school... to shoot fellow classmates. A letter was sent home to parents of South Windsor High School students... informing them about the arrest. Police aren't releasing the identity of the suspect because he is a juvenile.

01/19/11: Good Morning CT 5am - :20

"College Students Learning"

Parents don't get too mad but a new study shows your the first two years of college are a waste. The study, based on the book, Academically Adrift, found that college students are spending more time on their social life instead of studying in those first two years. 45 percent of students showed no significant gains in learning until their junior year.

01/25/11: News 8 at 11pm - :30

"NH in State Tuition Act"

A meeting tonight in New Haven to talk about a piece of legislation that would give children of illegal immigrants a break for pursuing higher education in our state. It's called the Connecticut In-State Tuition Act. New Haven officials agreed to endorse it at the meeting tonight. The bill would give an in-state tuition break for state colleges and universities to undocumented kids who do well in school. The resolution that passed tonight urges state legislators to consider the act. It goes up for the entire state board of alderman for approval early next month.

February:

02/03/11: News 8 at 11pm - :35

"CSUS Chancellor Retires"

The chancellor of the Connecticut State University System is retiring much earlier than expected. David Carter announced his retirement late last fall. He said he'd be staying on the job until September 1st of this year. But today, he told the Board of Trustees that he plans to leave on March 1st. Carter cited his health, and a desire to spend more time with his grandchildren... as reasons for retiring early. Carter came under fire last year from former Governor Jodi Rell... after announcing raises up to 10 percent for top higher education officials, including himself. He's been chancellor for 5 years... and an educator for 45 years.

02/15/11: News 8 at 5pm - :20

"Teacher Layoffs NH"

New Haven's Board of Ed is considering a plan that would put nearly 200 employees, including 60 teachers, out of work in July. The school district needs to fill a more than 14 million dollar budget hole. The 190 layoffs under consideration -- come on top of 40 layoffs already expected soon at the Board of Ed.

02/20/11: Good Morning CT Weekend - :30

"Schools and Snow"

The harsh winter has left a number of school districts in a bind. Some have been forced to cancel vacations while others are tacking on extra days at the end of the year to make-up snow days. State law requires that students be in class for a minimum of 180 days. One state lawmaker is asking the Department of Education commissioner to allow schools to 'factor-in' snow closings when they ask the state for a 'waiver' of that law. The law allows districts to shorten the school year for "un-avoidable emergencies".

March:

03/04/11: News 8 at 5pm - :40

"CMT Rally"

It's just about time to sharpen the number 2's. Students across the state start taking their Connecticut Mastery Tests next week. Today students in New Haven got revved up and ready to go. Kent Pierce reports ... This is part concert, part pep rally and all designed to get kids excited about, of all things, a test. The key to success is to first have confidence in yourself. That's what this day is all about - getting these kids confident and excited about the big test that starts Monday. And these kids know just how important the Connecticut Mastery tests are. But today is less about learning and more about celebrating all that work they've done and revving them up for ten days of tests. They did that with rappers and R&B groups New Haven brought several different schools together at the Clemente Leadership Academy. They even had a dance contest pitting the teachers against each other, but as hot as these performances were, this cold and snowy winter made preparing for the big test tougher than usual. This was not the only school doing a pep rally like this. Others had a slogan contest or a parade. The CMTs begin this coming Monday.

03/07/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - :20

"UConn Tuition Increases"

UConn students may have to pay more for their education. Governor Malloy's proposed budget would cut UConn's state allocation by about 10-percent-- a loss of about 35 million dollars for the school. University officials will meet later this month to talk about WAYS TO ABSORB THAT INCREASE IF THE budget is passed including increases in fees and tuition.

03/17/11: News 8 at 5pm - :30

"Greenwich Smut List"

Things are getting heated in Greenwich tonight after a so-called "SMUT List" surfaced at Greenwich High School. The list posted on Facebook accuses dozens of female students from area towns of being promiscuous. The names of 99 girls mostly from Westchester County, New York, were listed along with a dozen girls from Greenwich. On Tuesday, police were called to the school for a disruption surrounding the "smut list." Board of Education officials are investigating the incident.

Crime:

January:

01/04/11: News 8 at 12pm - :30

"Milford Purse Snatching"

Milford police are investigating a purse snatching today. They say a man and a woman stole a purse from a woman at the Whole Foods Store back on December 4th. Police say on the same day of the crime someone charged about 13-hundred dollars worth of stuff at a nearby Target Store with a credit card that was in the purse. If you have any information about either of these two suspect you're being urged to contact the Milford police department.

01/07/11: Good Morning CT at 6am - :40

"Shoreline Car Boosting"

Police along the shore line are dealing with a different kind of car thief. They aren't taking the whole car--- just the wheels. The crime isn't new but it's popping up in several areas lately. Libby McKenon says she walked out of her West Haven home on Highland Avenue this week to find her car up on cinderblocks. She called police and sent a picture of her Honda Accord into out report!t feature. Then she learned she was not alone. Police say thieves have been targeting Honda Accords and Infinity's in West Haven, Stamford and Darien. Libby says it cost her about 25-hundred dollars to replace her wheels.

01/20/11: News 8 at 5pm - :28

"Weapon in School Charges"

Police have dropped charges against a Hartford mother accused of sending her 12-year-old son to school with a BB gun and a knife. Sylvia Mojica was charged with risk of injury to a minor. Mojica told police that she gave the weapons to her son in October for protection because he was being bullied. She later changed her story and said she no idea about the weapons but accepted blame so he wouldn't be arrested. School officials say the boy was never bullied. The charge against her son was also dropped.

01/31/11: News 8 at 11pm - :25

"New Haven Homicide"

New Haven police are looking for leads in a double homicide. 32-year-old Michael Fernandez and 25-year-old Marquis Sumler were shot and killed outside a home on Front Street Saturday night. A third man... 32 year old Samuel Maebry was also shot. He survived... but has reportedly been uncooperative with police. Police say... there was some kind of fight that led up to the shootings. Neighbors tell us the whole thing is just unsettling. Police say the house is known for its drug activity.

February:

02/04/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - :20

"Komisarjevsky Delay"

Jury selection has been postponed until next month for the second man charged in the deadly Cheshire home invasion. The trial for Joshua Komisarjevsky is now set for March 14th. It was been scheduled for February 22nd. Steven Hayes, the other man who was accused in the crime, has already been convicted and sentenced to death.

02/09/11: News 8 at 5pm - :45

"Death Penalty"

If things stay on schedule...next month Dr. William Petit and his family will again be coming back to New Haven Superior Court for jury selection in the trial of the second suspect in the Cheshire home invasion murders. The trial of Joshua Komisarjevsky is expected to last at least as long as the one for Steven Hayes. These are just some of the 76 family members of Connecticut homicide victims who have sent a letter to state lawmakers urging them to vote again to repeal the state's death penalty. [BRANCATO] "The reality of the death penalty is that it drags out the legal process for decades." These survivors of homicides and the court system... say that for Dr. Petit and his family to endure the decades of legal maneuvers is cruel and unusual punishment...that it further victimizes the loved ones of murder victims. [JOINER] "The year my son was killed there were 112 homicides in Connecticut...that's 112 mothers." Victoria Coward and her family came here today to join the cause...her son Tyler was killed in New Haven about a month before the Cheshire crime...she says the legal process is an emotional killer. [COWARD] "Very emotional, the family hasn't been the same...you go through a lot." They all believe that if Connecticut had a "life sentence without possibility of parole" that Dr. Petit's legal ordeal would already be over. [CANZANO] "I am so sorry that we were not able to abolish capital punishment before those murders in Cheshire happened."

02/16/11: News 8 at 10pm - :40

"New Haven Shooting"

Another violent night on the streets of New Haven this Dunkin Donuts on Derby Avenue a crime scene --- it's the SECOND time in 2 months." The bullets shattered the front door and the nerves of Gwen Moses who lives nearby and heard exploding gunfire." Two people shot inside --- one in the head --- the other in the leg. Moses believes this shooting stems from a big fight --- involving her son --- on Sunday at this same Dunkin Donuts. Amid the flashing lights and crime tape -- police gathered evidence and interviewed witnesses to piece together what led up to this attack. "Was this a drive by? We haven't ruled that out but it's not confirmed." Lt. Ray Hasert. This is the second shooting in weeks at this Dunkin Donuts. In December --- a man in his 20's was shot and killed as walked outside. One woman told us its a common to see people INSIDE just hanging around. One employee told us it's unsafe. Just a baseball's throw from this Dunkin Donuts from this intersection to this deli there have been at least 3 shootings and a stabbing in recent years. People who care in the West River neighborhood are afraid of what might happen if the mayor cuts the police force and there are fewer officers on the streets. If you have any information about this case you are asked to contact New Haven Police.

March:

3/01/11: News at 5pm - :20

"Computer Crimes"

People in Connecticut reported losses of more than three million dollars last year because of internet crimes. A report from the national Internet Crime Complaint Center says cases of non-delivery and identity theft accounted for nearly 40-percent of complaints last year. Other crimes included scams impersonating the F-B-I, hacking, advance fee fraud and credit card fraud.

03/09/11: News 8 at 6pm - 1:40

"New Haven Fire"

More now on the investigation... and what police are looking for. As Ted mentioned earlier, investigators are trying to track down a van seen leaving the area. Our team coverage continues now with News 8's Sara Welch live from the scene in New Haven ... Tonight Police are calling this fire arson and the case is being investigated as a TRIPLE homicide. Right now police are releasing few details about this crime scene. One important clue they have released: Police are looking for a dark colored van that was seen leaving this area in Fair Haven just before this blaze broke out --- Detectives are urging anyone with information to give them a call. At a news conference this afternoon --- the mayor told reporters this 4 family property passed inspections 3 times in last 8 months. That means at the time of the inspections the units had working smoke

and CO detectors. Firefighters haven't said yet if they were working last night. We know 2 of the first floor units were vacant. The landlord's name is Lily Pashandi. It's unclear if she's been interviewed by Police. But we know she owns 3 other properties in New Haven --- and she owes back taxes. Detectives say they've already interviewed more than a dozen people. And neighbors heartbroken by this tragic loss tell us if they anything on the streets about this fatal fire --- they will certainly cooperate with police. New Haven's Police Chief says the job now is to find Justice here. 10 detectives have been assigned to this case. If you have any information --- you can contact New Haven Police at 203-946-6304 and you can find that number by logging onto our website at WTNH.com.

03/17/11: News 8 at 11pm - :40

"West Haven Domestic Violence"

A federal lawsuit has been filed against the city of West Haven and the Police Department... over a deadly domestic violence case. A lawyer for the mother of 25 year old Shengil Rasim says that 911 tape *proves police didn't take the victim's case seriously and she ended up dying because of it. The civil suit alleges negligence, recklessness and that civil rights were violated. An internal investigation within the West Haven police department led to 12 charges of neglect of duty or conduct unbecoming an employee but attorneys say the only punishment so far was unpaid vacation days.

Consumer Issues:

January:

01/10/11: News 8 at 5pm - :25

"U.S. Product Safety"

The federal government is going to make public the thousands of complaints it gets each year about problems with various products. The Consumer Products Safety Commission will launch an online resource for people that consumer advocates say will revolutionize the way people make buying decisions. But manufacturers and industry groups are concerned competitors or people with other motives could post inaccurate claims.

01/21/11: News 8 at 12pm - :20

"Saab Recall"

If you own a Saab, listen up, we've got a recall to tell you about. Certain 2010 and 2011 '9-3' Sedan models are being re-called... because the fuel pumps could stop working and the engine could stall. Dealers will replace the pumps free of charge. Saab will begin *officially* notifying customers next month.

01/31/11: Good Morning CT at 6am - :25

"Economic Activity"

New government data shows overall economic activity picked up at the end of 2010 because of strong consumer activity. Spending by Americans which accounts for about 70-percent of all spending picked up by more than four percent during the fourth quarter ... That's the fastest pace since the beginning of 2006. The rise in consumer activity has many economists confident we might just see a self-sustaining recovery

February:

02/11/11: News 8 at 5pm - :25

"Infant Monitor Recall"

Nearly 2 million Summer Infant video baby monitors are being recalled after two children died. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says electrical cords on the monitors can get caught around a child's neck if placed too close to babies' cribs. This recall includes more than 40 different models of handheld, digital and color monitors. Parents should make sure the monitor is placed well out of the reach of the child's crib. For the list of models included in the recall - check out our website - wtnh.com.

02/16/11: Good Morning CT at 6am - :25

"Consumer Prices"

The price of food, gas and clothing are all going up. Droughts in China -- to floods in Australia -- paired with higher demand for food have caused the high prices. Cotton is at a fifteen year high... increasing the cost of a pair of jeans at least four dollars.

02/23/11: New 8 at 11pm - :20

"Ford Pickup Recall"

Ford is recalling about 150 thousand pick up trucks because the airbags can go off without warning. The government is pushing for even more trucks to be called back. They say nearly 100 people have been hurt from airbags going off for no reason. Ford says the risk is "slight."

The recall covers f-150 pick up trucks from the 2005-2006 model year. Owners will be getting letters in the mail next month.

02/24/11: Good Morning CT at 6am - :30

"Gas Prices"

We're already seeing the difference at the pump. The price of a gallon of regular is up 4 cents in the last week. We're up 56 cents from where we were a year ago, and remember, gas prices usually go up as we head towards Memorial Day. But gas prices are just the beginning. When we have to spend more on gas, we spend less on other things. Every penny gas goes up means \$1.2 billion less in consumer spending, so imagine what would happen if gas went up to \$5 a gallon.

March:

03/03/11: News 8 at 12pm - :20

"Chrysler Recall"

There are two vehicle recalls to tell you about ... The 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan, Chrysler Town & Country minivans and 2010 Dodge Journey Crossovers, are all being called back because the engine can possibly stall. Obviously, if the engine stalls, that increases the risk of getting into a crash. Owners will be notified starting next month.

03/10/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :20

"GM Recall"

General Motors is recalling more than ten-thousand cars to fix a software glitch. The recall affects the 2011 Buick LaCrosse and Cadillac SRX. GM says software in the electronic climate control module could prevent the defroster from clearing the windshield and affect visibility. Dealers will reprogram the module for free.

03/17/11: News at 5pm - :20

"Consumer Protection Bureau"

Congress is debating the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The agency was created as part of last year's Wall Street Reform. The white house says the goal is to make the risks clearer to people. Mortgages, credit cards, checking accounts, America's families have a right to see the deal right up front. Republicans say the agency will be too powerful... with limited Congressional oversight. It is set to become operational in July.

Government, Economy, & Law

January:

01/05/11: News 8 at 12pm - :25

"IKEA Lightbulbs"

If you want to buy one of those old incandescent light bulbs you won't be able to find them at IKEA. The company says it's the first one to completely stop selling those bulbs. The move comes ahead of a government-mandated 'phase out' of the bulbs from 2012 to 2014. So, instead of those, you can get fluorescent bulbs, as well as L-E-D, halogen and solar-powered lamps.

01/06/11: News 8 at 5pm - :30

"New Congress"

Today was the first real day of work for the Republicans now in control of the house and it was part symbolism and part political power play. The republicans started off by leading a reading the constitution. They are suggesting they will pay closer attention to it than democrats have been. Then republicans moved to repeal the new health care overhaul. What ever happens in the house, the republican health care appeal bill will be dead on arrival in the Senate.

01/09/11: Good Morning CT Weekend - :25

"Water Fluoride Levels"

A new study shows there is too much Fluoride in the nation's drinking water. For the first time in nearly 50 years... the government is set to lower the recommended fluoride limit in water supplies. Fluoride helps to cut cavities and tooth decay... but now two out of five children have streaks on their teeth from too much fluoride.

01/14/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - :15

"Healthier Lunches"

If the government gets its way kids will see fewer 'french fries' at lunchtime. The U-S Department of Agriculture has announced the first new school lunch guidelines in 15 years. It recommends reducing saturated fat, sugar and sodium increasing whole grains and serving both fruits and vegetables daily. The U-S-D-A says children consume more than half of their calories at school.

February:

02/01/11: News 8 at 5pm - :20

"Business Start-ups Help"

The Obama Administration and some high-profile companies are teaming up to give start-ups a financial kick-start and mentoring. Corporate investors like Intel... I-B-M... and Hewlett Packard are pledging millions to support new ideas in high-growth industries like clean energy and medicine. It's part of the "Startup America Partnership." The president says entrepreneurs play a critical role in creating more jobs and expanding the U-S economy.

02/09/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - :20

"Prisoner Health Care"

UConn's 100 MILLION DOLLAR contract.. to provide health care for prisoners.. may be on the chopping block this year. Legislators are suggesting the government could lower the cost by opening it to bids from private companies. The contract dates back to 1997.. and covers 19-thousand prisoners.

02/10/11: News 8 at 6pm - :20

"CT Reducing State Agencies"

Today Governor Dannel Malloy announced his plan to cut the number of budgeted state agencies. The proposal includes reducing the number of state agencies by 30 percent. Malloy says he's also cut his own staff down by 15 percent. The goal of the plan is to bring similar agencies together and have more of what Malloy calls a "streamlined state government."

02/28/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - :25

"CT Paid Sick Leave"

A bill to require more employers to provide paid sick leave is on the agenda today at the state capitol. Under the bill employers with 50 or more employees would have to provide time for workers to take care of a sick child, parent or spouse. Workers would get an hour of sick leave for ever 40 hours that they work. The Connecticut Business and Industry Association ARE WORRIED SOME BUSINESS OWNERS WOULD end up reducing benefits, cutting hours or eliminating jobs.

March:

03/01/11: Good Morning CT at 7am - :35

"Congress Spending"

On the Road to Recovery Now ... The Republican-controlled House has passed legislation to avoid a government shutdown when money runs out Friday. And Democrats who control the Senate say they will go along with it to keep the government running for two weeks. The House bill cuts federal spending by four billion dollars. It now goes to the Senate where Majority Leader Harry Reid said he expects the bill to go to President Obama for his signature in the next 48-hours. It will buy time for The White House and leaders of both parties to work out a deal to fund the government for the rest of the budget year.

03/07/11: Good Morning CT at 5am - :25

"Death Penalty"

A showdown is scheduled today at the state capitol over the death penalty. The State Judiciary committee is holding a hearing on a bill that would repeal the state's death penalty. Instead, offenders convicted of a capital felony murder would be imprisoned for life without the possibility of parole but only for crimes committed after the new law goes into effect.

03/09/11: News 8 at 5pm - :20

"CT Economy"

On the Road to Recovery ... We have new unemployment numbers for Connecticut tonight and the news is mixed. In January unemployment remained at 9.0 percent but the state did lose 27-hundred jobs. Economist say all the bad weather we had in January hurt the job hunt. The good news ..The department of labor has taken a closer look at data for last year. It turns out the recession was worse than we thought and the recovery is faster. Kepper Smith predicts it will take three years for a full jobs recovery.